



Universidad de Granada

2022 – 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

To begin with, I was informed by a classmate that there was an opportunity to go on an exchange in the 3rd year of my Law degree. When I heard this, I was actually interested right away. The only problem was that I had missed the Study Abroad weeks, including the meeting in early October. I emailed the questions that I had about studying abroad to IEO and actually got an answer pretty quickly. There is also a knowledge clip on UU's website with quite a lot of information and of course you can find many things related to studying abroad in general on their site as well.

If I remember correctly, you had to complete your application in Osiris by Dec. 1 where you had to fill in 2 or 3 favorite destinations, submit a signed study plan, write a motivation letter and answer some relevant questions. I preferred Granada, and had filled in Barcelona as my 2nd choice.

I remember it was quite difficult to make the study plan, because you already had to choose subjects at the university (of Granada in this case) for 30 ECTS. You can find these subjects on the site of the Granada University, but the information is in Spanish. I didn't want to take the risk that some subjects wouldn't be approved, so I chose subjects from 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year (bachelor in Spain = 4 years). In the end, the courses I chose in the study plan were also the courses I ended up taking during my exchange. To get the study plan signed, I had to go to the study counselor at the Studiepunt Rechten at the university which has very limited opening hours. This was a bit inconvenient since I live far from Utrecht.

In the motivation letter, I focused on my reasoning for wanting to go to Spain, and Granada in particular, on exchange. In addition, you also had to provide proof of your Spanish language level (since the law courses in Granada are in Spanish). For this, I took a free language test on the website of language institute Babel, which is checked by a Spanish teacher. I was afraid it would take them a long time to respond, but the next business day I received my result: A2+. I had not really prepared for this language test, since I already had several years of experience with the Spanish language. To be honest, I was also surprised by the result, since I later achieved B2/C1 level at a recognized language institute and rated my level higher than that in the first place. But I suppose for an application it is a fine way to receive an estimation of your language level.

The required language level at Granada is B1, but B2 is highly recommended by IEO. In my opinion, B2 is indeed the minimum if you want to have a big chance of obtaining all 30 ECTS. The teachers talk pretty fast and not all of them will take in account that you are from abroad. Furthermore, the Andalusian accent of some teachers (and students) is quite strong and makes it extra hard to understand them.

If you want to go on exchange in the 1st semester, the deadline for application is December 1. So start filling out all the documents in time, as it can sometimes take longer than you expect.

In January, I received confirmation by email that I was conditionally selected for the University of Granada and (IMPORTANT!) it also told me what the next steps were. In short: you will be nominated at the host university and also have to provide official certificate of language level of at least B1 Spanish with a deadline of April 1.

The two easiest ways known to me to get this certificate are through a DELE or SIELE exam through the institute Cervantes (based in Utrecht). However, the problem was that the result of DIELE exam could take up to 100 days, jeopardizing the deadline. For me this was a problem, so I took the SIELE exam at Cervantes in Utrecht (cost: around 120 euros if I remember correctly). You can book this exam through their website and



complete it on the computer at their office. I received the result after 2 days.

After you send the certificate to IEO, you actually already meet all the requirements to go on exchange. Once you are nominated to the University of Granada, you also have to apply on their website (they ask for your personal information, among other things).

You will also receive an invitation from Utrecht for an information session at the university in April for all exchange students. Here a lot of general information is provided and exchange students from previous years are invited to speak.

In the summer, I received an email that I could start my application for the Erasmus Grant in Osiris. To be honest, this process was pretty annoying as they asked for specific documents and information while I was on holiday.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I have mainly had a lot of email contact with the email address ieo.leg@uu.nl regarding questions about my exchange. Usually my emails were responded to quickly and attentively, if it was a bit busier it could take a few days. So keep this in mind as there are strict deadlines. In addition, I also called once regarding my exchange, but it was quite difficult to reach them given the limited opening hours and a queue on the phone line.

But, again, by e-mail I was very well assisted by the staff.

academic preparation

In terms of academic preparation, I hadn't really done anything. Which makes sense, since of course you give priority to your studies in Utrecht and passing those subjects. You might look for some general information on the Internet, but generally speaking, especially as an Erasmus student, you will be helped with the course material (related to prior subjects). In my opinion, the curriculum of the subjects in general is not very difficult and the level of subjects is lower than in the Netherlands. Nevertheless, it is very important to attend classes and start preparing exams on time since everything is in a foreign language.

Some courses in Granada require/recommend prior knowledge of other courses, but in all honesty it's not really that important. Dutch criminal or administrative law for example is not very different from Spanish law. Besides, the teacher will always repeat the necessary prior knowledge of other subjects in class.

language preparation

As I said, for the language test of the 1st deadline, I had not really prepared anything since I had been speaking Spanish for years. However, for the SIELE exam I did do some preparation, on the internet you can find several practice tests to prepare for it. I also studied some explanations on grammar (for example on the subjuntivo) and learned the conjugation of the most important irregular verbs. And in the end the result I achieved was above the required language level.

But of course, this is different for everyone depending on someone's language level. Again, I would definitely recommend having at least a B2 level in Spanish upon your arrival in Granada.

finances

As you probably already know, you get an Erasmus scholarship during your stay abroad. The set scholarship amount for Spain was/is 300 euros per month, but you don't get this amount all at once. You get around 70-80% at first, and after your stay the rest (only if you meet the conditions). Moreover, it can take quite a long time before you receive the first amount (I received it at the end of October). You may also end up not meeting the conditions of the scholarship and having to repay the entire amount. So don't fully count on this scholarship, but make sure you have something in reserve.



You get a public transport allowance from DUO if you deactivate your 'studentenreisproduct' because you are going to study abroad. This amount is around 100-120 euros per month. Make sure you deactivate it on time, otherwise you will miss out on money.

Personally, I don't get student funding from DUO nor do I take loans from DUO, but should you be subject to this, then this is of course an extra revenue.

In almost all places, you can just pay with your Dutch bank card (with Maestro logo). Still, small businesses often do not have the option to pay by card and will only accept cash. So make sure you also bring cash with you from the Netherlands, as withdrawing money in Spain often costs money (depends on your Dutch bank and the Spanish bank in particular). The Spanish version of 'tikkie' is called 'Bizum' (to transfer money from account to account) and is widely used by Spanish students, but most Dutch banks are not included in this programme. It might be useful to link a PayPal account to your bank account to receive and send money to foreign accounts.

Life in Granada is cheaper than in the Netherlands, but prices in Spain have also risen sharply. My estimate is that for a whole month of food and drinks (breakfast, lunch & dinner), you need around 250 to 300 euros. If you eat out more frequently, this amount could be higher. If you regularly cook for yourself or do so with your housemates or something similar together, the amount may even be lower. Eating at the the university cafeterias is also cheap (3.50-4 euro for a whole meal), but they have limited opening hours and options.

To be honest, I have no idea how much you spend when you go out, since I don't go out because of my religion.

You do not have to pay tuition in Granada, but you may 'have' to purchase a legislation for a subject (if you study law). I had many optional subjects, in which there is less use of legislation and case law than in the Netherlands. Anyway, I had one compulsory subject where it was practically impossible to pass the subject without the legislation. You don't get a book list or anything, so you have to ask the teacher yourself if it's really necessary to buy the textbook. Either way, it is not necessarily necessary to purchase the textbook, as the library often has plenty of copies you can borrow. If you decide to borrow it in time for the test, it should not be the case that you will not find one. The teacher will often indicate which topics he will not cover in full in the lessons and which notes you should therefore supplement with information from the textbook. In addition, many handbooks can be read online on the UGR website. I paid around 40 euros in total for 2 books, but of course the price varies from book to book.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before the first week of education, there is an informative meeting at each faculty for Erasmus students. This explains how to choose your subjects and draw up your school timetable. You can choose to take the same subjects from your learning agreement/study plan, or choose different subjects. I chose the same subjects as in my learning agreement/study plan. You have to fill in the chosen subjects and choose which group you want to follow the courses. Every group has a different time, so you'll have to find out a way to compile all your subjects in one time table without overlap. In Spain the choice of the group can be very decisive, since the groups between one subject can have different teachers who have different ways of examining the subject. It might be the case that you'd get a good grade in e.g. group A, but a much worse grade if you would have chosen group B or C. The thing is, that as an Erasmus student, it is very hard to know on forehand what every group or teacher is like. So I would just choose the groups that are most convenient for your time table.

Then you have to resend the document to the international office of your faculty. In my case (Law faculty), we were not officially enrolled until the 3rd or 4th week of University. But for the first week(s), you will be told to



just go to the groups of the subjects you have chosen in the document, and if your name is not on the attendance list of the teacher you can just tell him/her that you are not yet enrolled because you're from abroad.

academic quality of education activities

In the first weeks, it was sometimes very hard to understand some teachers in class because they would talk very fast or with a strong accent (All my courses were in Spanish). The level of the classes seemed also pretty hard in the beginning, although there were some exceptions. A big difference between the University of Granada and Utrecht is the amount of hours you have to go to class per week. In Utrecht I have class 3 hours a week, but in Granada I had class around 21 hours a week. Another difference is that in Granada, you will follow your courses during the whole semester, so in my case I had 6 courses at the same time during 4 months. This was also hard to get used to. The classes are mostly given during midday or in the evening (around 20 o'clock). Between 15:00 and 18:00 there are very few classes. I had class in the morning (11:00 to 14 or 15:00) and in the evening (20:00 to 21 or 22:00). But the class hours depend of course on the specific class groups that you will choose in the beginning of your stay abroad.

The classes in Spain are more like the classes at High School in the Netherlands: every subject has a certain amount of class hours a week in which the teacher will explain the class materials and practice some exercises. There are no general lectures for all students like here in Utrecht, because every teacher explains the class material in class. It is also possible that a test has to be made during class hours before the final exams of January, these dates will be communicated by the teacher in the first week of class. It might also be the case that you will have to give a presentation for a grade.

A very important thing to keep in mind in my opinion is the 'evaluacion continua'. This concept means that a student who attends (almost) all classes and does his homework will get a note for his efforts during the classes. This might help him during the final exams of January, because the teacher will be more compassionate if you get a bad grade. In some cases, if you didn't fulfill the conditions for the evaluacion continua (e.g. You skipped most of the classes), you will have to make an extra exercise during the final exam to be able to graduate.

In short, I would say that the academic level of the Granada University is lower than the academic level of the University of Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

For Erasmus law students, there is an email address (oriderecho@ugr.es) of the international relations office of the law faculty of UGR. When you have questions or something like that you can mail this email address and they will respond to you quite fastly. Apart from that, the teachers are kind of helpful (not all of them in the same way) if there is something you want to know or need help with. They usually tell their email address in the 1st class of the semester, but you can find it on the website of the university as well. Every class assigns a person or two persons that will be the spokesman ('delgado') of the class with the teacher. If the teacher wants to communicate something with the class or the class wants to know something from the teacher, they usually use the delgado/a as intermediary.

Other than that, I would not expect too much from the Spanish students in Granada. They are pretty closed and did not really bother to help you unless you asked them specifically. What I would recommend is to join the whatsapp groups of all your classes. I mostly found the invitation links in a Facebook group called Derecho's Club, but if you are not able to find it you can ask your fellow students.

The other Erasmus students in Granada are mostly very helpful so you might ask them also if you need help with anything.

transfer of credits

In October I filled out a transfer credit request form and sent it to the examination board. They responded by saying they want a course description in English of my courses. This was not possible, as all my courses were in



Spanish. They responded then that I would have to send them the transcription of records after my stay abroad. A few days after I received my final grades, I received an email from UGR about how to download my transcript of records. I downloaded it and uploaded it in OSIRIS for the grant application, but I cannot use it to transfer credits. I have to wait until the international exchange office of Utrecht uploads the ToR in OSIRIS and then I can use that document to request a transfer of credits from the examination board. At the moment, I don't know yet how it will be settled.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the summer you will receive various emails from the UGR with the dates of the welcome programme. In my case, in the week before the 1st week of class, there was a welcoming event for all Erasmus students and one for the Erasmus students of your specific faculty. I went to both, and I'd say that the information you receive is useful, especially in the second presentation of your own faculty. I think there were also some informal events for Erasmus students but I didn't bother going.

accommodation

searching for an accommodation was pretty annoying for me, as I was looking for an accommodation that I would not have to share with other people. I principally searched on the website of idealista.es, but here I mostly found rooms in shared apartments or apartments with a minimum contract of 10 months. There are also some Facebook groups for Erasmus students in Granada where you can find an accommodation, but be careful because there are a lot of scammers with fake accommodations! On the website of UGR you can also find accommodations, but the supply is pretty limited and it did not tell how to get in touch with the tenant. Eventually, I rented a room with private bathroom and kitchen in a private student residence named Bravo Students (www.bravostudents.com). The price for 1 semester was 480 euros a month with all costs included. Nevertheless, this is pretty expensive for Granada and Spain in general. I think the average price for a room in a shared apartment is between 200 to 300 euros a month.

The room for one person in the residence had a private bathroom with toilet and shower cabin, and a kitchen with a microwave and a small fridge. A big disadvantage of this room was that it was not possible to cook, because there was no gas stove and it was prohibited to buy one. Though they have a solution for that as there is a 'comedor' (canteen) in the student residence where you can eat and drink (for a fee). There are also various comedores of the University of Granada in the city where you can eat during the afternoon (between 1 PM and 4 PM if I'm not mistaken).

There is also a gym in the student residence (included in the price), a study room and a big chill room with 2 big televisions and a terrace. The residence is located a bit far from the city center, but there is a metro station very nearby (2 minutes) with metros every 10-15 minutes to the city center. Walking to the city center will cost you about 20 to 30 minutes.

There are also other private student residences in the city with for example a swimming pool, but those are slightly more expensive I think.

leisure & culture

Due to religious reasons I did not go out to places where alcohol is served, so I'm afraid that I cannot tell exactly what 'the student life' is like exactly. Granada really is a city with a lot of students, so when you walk around the city you will mostly see people from 18 to 25 years. The city is full with bars and disco's, but as I said I didn't go there. For students who like to play football, I would say Granada is the perfect city to go to. On a daily basis there are matches organized between students at the football pitches on the University campuses for like 1 or 2 euros per person. There was also a football tournament organized by the University in November where you could sign up your own football team. So as a football fan, I really enjoyed studying in Granada and playing football as much as possible.



I had already been to Spain several times, so I did not really have a culture shock. Nonetheless, I had to get used to some things in my first weeks there. Spanish people are very noisy and they really like to have a good time with their friends and family without taking into account the effect of their noisiness on other people. Another cultural thing to take in account is the siesta time (between 1/2 pm and 6 pm). During these hours, most of the small shops will be closed and even some supermarkets. You will notice also the calmness in the streets. Other than that, almost everything is closed on Sundays and holidays.

suggestions/tips

To enjoy your time abroad, as it is something you probably won't do often in your life.
 Academically speaking, I would recommend to attend all your classes, or as many as you can.
 Also, check your UU-mailbox often because there are some important emails sent by the UU and others during your stay abroad with strict deadlines.
 Start as soon as possible with the search of your accommodation to avoid surprises.
 The temperatures in September/October are quite high, but in the winter it is pretty cold in Granada. So bring both your summer and winter clothes with you if you are going in the 1st semester.
 Arrange your inscripcion etc. in the medical system as soon as possible when you arrive, so that you can be attended medically without any problems.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes. Granada is a student city and in general very safe (I didn't experience unsafe situations at all). The city is not too big and not too small and has some interesting tourist attractions (for example, the Alhambra). The prices of accommodations are lower than in other big cities of Spain (Madrid, Barcelona). There are a lot of places you can visit nearby (Morocco, Portugal, cities like Málaga, Sevilla, Córdoba etc.)
 There are a lot of students and the student culture is nice.
 And most important: the weather is mainly pleasant.

The inconvenient part of Granada is that it doesn't have an airport with international flights to Holland, Germany or Belgium. So if you want to fly back home you'll have to go all the way to Málaga to catch a direct flight. However, there are a lot of buses (with a cost of approx. 12 euro) on a daily basis between Granada and Málaga airport.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



2018 – 2019

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	To apply you have to fill in all the documents you need for the Utrecht University. Do this before the deadline and remind yourself that this is somewhere near december. You need a motivational letter, in English, as if you write it to the University you are applying for. The UU will send you somewhere between January/February the news if you are accepted. Then the only thing left is applying at the University of Granada. This is easy, it only scared me that I already had to choose my courses, but don't worry about this. I didn't do it, they filled it in and when I arrived at the beginning of the semester I had a few more weeks to figure out which courses I wanted to do. In Spain you will choose those, so don't put effort in finding them in advance because you won't understand the system until this is explained to you.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	They helped where they could, it is just a strange proces with all the courses in Granada, so they didn't know how it worked either. In Granada everything will be clear.
academic preparation	
	I did my exchange in my 3th year first semester. In Granada I followed 2 criminology courses and 2 political science, so it didn't have that much to do with law. I wasn't prepared for these courses, but it was easy to follow since the level is lower in Spain. I did 2 first years and 2 fourth year optional courses. In my opinion it was all the same level.
language preparation	
	My Spanish level when I arrived was between B1 and B2, more B1. It is hard to follow all the courses, even at the end of the semester I was still struggling with clases, but it is really really worth it. You will see progress fast, since you will hear and speak Spanish every day almost all day. I agreed with my international friends to speak Spanish together, and also in my flat we always spoke Spanish. My recommendation is to have at least B1 level, and be open to improve, you will be fine. At the end of my exchange I reached B2 level of Spanish with C1 on listening since that is what you basically do all the time.
finances	
	Granada is a cheap student city. The flats cost between €150 and €300, depending on the location. Food is also cheap, if you go out for tapas, with every drink you will get the best free tapas. Drinks are between €1,80 and €3,00, and with 2 or 3 drinks you have enough food for dinner. Sit at the high tables, otherwise the tapas is not free. Trips are cheap as well with the student organisations, I will write about them later. To go to other cities without an organisation it is easy to book ALSA busses, or use blablacar, you join someone who is going somewhere, like carpooling. To go out you have a lot of free erasmus nights, otherwise entrance is maximum €15.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The first month is going to be chaos, prepare. To make your own schedule is a bit of an issue, since it is up to you and totally free with the possibility of choosing different courses from different faculties. The people at the international office will help you with this, and you just have to take your time to understand the system and find a schedule that fits your lifestyle. I chose to only have courses in the afternoon so I never had to put an alarm and could go out every night. Notice that the courses are worth 6 credits, so to have the minimum of 22,5



ECTS you should at least follow 4 courses and to have 30 ECTS 5 courses. This is doable.
academic quality of education activities
As I said before, I followed 2 firstyear and 2 fourthyear courses. You can choose out of all the courses the university has, also when it has nothing to do with law. I followed 2 courses at the faculty of political science and Sociology and 2 at the Law faculty since Criminology is part of law. There are no lectures and smallgroupsessions like in Utrecht. Depending on the amount of credits you have 4 or 6 hour lectures, with everyone who follows the course. The teacher will talk for 2 hours straight, without a break, and you have to just take notes. It is a good practice for your Spanish and I learned a lot. It is not obligated but with some teachers you will get credits for attendance. Spanish people barely bring laptops, just plain paper to take notes, that's it. The semester is september until december, without any exams, and the whole month of January you will have exams. Since every teacher makes their own course, with own recommended books and own tests, some give you tests or assignments during the semester. This is why you, before you choose a course, have to go check the course with different teachers, which one you like best, understand their accent of Spanish the best and see if they are tolerant with Erasmus exchange students.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The boy who was responsible for the international office related issues was the most helpful and patient boy ever. He helped me with everything, explained everything in Spanish, and if I didn't follow it he would directly switch to English. He responded really quick and, even after I showed up every day in the first few weeks, he was always just as nice and helpful.
transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first day you will go to a general introduction for all erasmus students from one faculty. I study law and I had to go to the faculty Fuente Nueva. Here they explained all erasmus related information, and after this meeting I was really confused with everything I had to do. The day after we had a meeting for only law students in the law faculty where they gave us the subjects we could choose. Here they will only give you the law courses, but since I wanted to have other courses as well, I had to find all these on the website. It is a complicated process to make your own schedule, and you should really take the time to make this. In the guia academica from each section you can find which course is given in which period, and the international office counselar will help you with all your doubts.
To make your own schedule you have to check the catalogus, see if you want to have class in the morning or afternoon and if they fit with each other. Also check if the exams in January aren't on the same date. Don't rush, you have until the end of september to make your schedule. If you want to you can change it every day, or just take your time and change it all at once at the end of the month. Try to matriculate as soon as you can, so you can enroll in the school system.
accommodation
It is easy to find accomodation in Granada, don't worry about this. You can find a flat on forhand, but you can also come and visit flats so you know what you say yes to, since the conditions aren't that good. There are lots of facebook pages where you can find appartments and studentflats.
Also, you can look on the website of Aluni, this is an organisation that rents studentflats. Please note that in the winter in Granada it can get cold, so make sure you either have central warming or a good heather. I didn't know this, and all winter it was cold inside.



locations: If you are going to study at the law faculty, or anywhere near the center, the best locations to look for an apartment are

- pedrio antonio = cheap flats, student street with a lot of bars to go out. This is close to camino de ronda as well, but this street is long, so don't live too far.
- city centre, this is close to everything.
- Plaza de Toros, far but cheap and close to Cartuga, where a lot of faculties are located.
- Albaycin, far from most of the faculties, but lovely neighbourhood, lots of climbing though.
- Realejo, far from most of the faculties, but nice neighbourhood and close to the city centre.

leisure & culture

There are three big students associations active in Granada for Erasmus students.

ESN: an association based on local volunteers. Cheap, since it is all volunteers, nice people, lots of interesting activities, communityfeeling.

Bestlifeexperience: Based on fulltimers and volunteers, the best trips, the people who work here speak a lot of languages, nice activities and day, - and weektrips every weekend!

Emycet: didn't do much with this organisation, didn't hear good stories, offers the same trips as bestlife, so I would prefer them.

Visit the Alhambra, it is beautiful. There are some days that students can visit for free, worth a look on the internet.

Traveling: Marocco since you are so close is defintely worth it to visit, don't forget to bring your passport since you will be leaving Europe. Andalucia, lots of easy daytrips.

Sierra Nevada: You defenitely need to make a (ski/snowboard)trip to the Sierra Nevada, the mountains near Granada. Easy to go there by bus from the busstation, or with organised trips. You can buy cheap skipasses on the website of the Sierra Nevada club. Lots of shops to rent stuff, and you can decide for how long you want to rent it all.

suggestions/tips

For going out, when I was here, the following clubs were worth a visit:

Monday: mezquita 14 for karaoke night and lemon rock for a language exchange and concerts

Tuesday: Chupiteria 69 and club Legend for 1 euro shots

Wednesday: Palabarab for predrinks and Mae West for a good big party

Thursday: Hannigans and Sons for karaoke, entresuelo for alternative partys and there are some places with free dancing clases

Friday: camborio and teatro

Saturday: Techno partys such as Sala el Tren or Industrial Coopera, other clubs are Granero and Sala Vogue

Sunday: free salsa class outside of the centre and Sarao for brazilian liv music

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Granada is the best city ever for Erasmus students who would like to improve their Spanish, live a cheap and easy life, party every day and go out for tapas almost every day. Sometimes that is even cheaper than cooking yourself. If you like outside activities go here, since it is close to the Sierra Nevada. You can walk everywhere, the centre is really small so you never have to think twice if you want to go somewhere because everything is close and you just always join for a bit. The university system is not the best and the clases are really different



than back in The Netherlands, but it is a fun change and you start to appreciate the organized structure back home even more. If you would like a siesta every day, a lot of culture, party, nature, free tapas and an international environment Granada is the best. I had the time of my life and remember that Granada is known as THE international student city of Spain!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

GO, you won't regret it. If you do regret it, the flight tickets to go back home are cheap.

2017-2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application is a bit stressful, but it's worth it. In the beginning I had to fill in a lot of forms. I had to look for the right courses and sometimes, not everything was clear, but luckily the international office in the Netherlands always helped me out and also the international office in Granada always answered very fast when you needed something.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was going well, if I needed something I could always ask and they answered me on time.

academic preparation

Everything went good, although I didn't expect that there were no English subjects at there. There was actually one, but because of clash I couldn't apply for that subject.

language preparation

I had taken Spanish courses in Valencia a year before I went to Granada. I started from A1 and finished B1 in 7 weeks. But the Spanish accent in Andalusia is very different (fast and they don't pronounce everything clear), but you will get used to it after a month or two.

finances

Everything is quite cheap there. You can find rooms in Granada for even less than 200 euro's. But if you want to stay in the centrum, then you will have to pay more than 250 euro's, which is still very cheap if you compare this to other countries.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had some issues in the beginning because of not attending the orientation week (I was lost), but I had my buddy who helped me out with choosing the subjects.

academic quality of education activities

The education there was very different. In the beginning we were in some rooms and all I thought was: where am I, in which century? Later I realized that the rooms are still oldfashion, because it's something that belongs to the building itself. The education there is different because there you don't have lectures where more than 500 people can attend and listen to the professor. In Granada you everything is just in class, you listen to the teacher and you make notes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I was not very satisfied in the beginning, because one lady showed me the wrong subjects a few times and



because of her I missed the orientation week.
transfer of credits
The credits are different there, there are subjects with 8 credits which was new to me, but when you pass for it you will also receive your 8 credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I missed the orientation week.
accommodation
The accomodation where I lived was 2 minutes by walk from the University which was very good to me, because normally I travel from my town to Utrecht 1,5 hour and back also 1,5 hour. The place itself was not my number one option, but the distance from my accomodation to the University was the reason why I stayed. I stayed in a residence, it was not only for students, but also for random people who wanted to stay for a few days. I had a room and I shared the bathroom with my friend. The livingroom and the kitchen was shared by me, my friend and two other Erasmusstudents.
leisure & culture
I really loved the culture, but I was attracted to the Spanish culture earlier. The people are so friendly, the food is good and cheap. The beautiful cities, the beaches and at last but not least the magical mountains! Every city in in Spain has it's own beauty. But Granada is my favorite.
suggestions/tips
I know that for a lot of students it's important to pass your subjects, but don't forget to meet all those lovely people there, don't forget to travel and discover the beauty in Spain. You will pass your exams anyways!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
YES! for sure. The university in Granada is an old university, the rooms are old also, but for some subjects you have to go another location which is 5 minutes by walk (this counts only for the faculty of law).
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't doubt, just do it! You won't regret!

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I had gone to a information day and they gave me some information about how the application process, but most of it can be found on the website and if I had any questions I could always go/mail to international office and got a reply pretty quickly. So they application process was very easy because of the help I received.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I consider this to be good. At the beginning I was very lost and struggled with the applicacions but I was guided well.
academic preparation



I went abroad in my last year of my bachelor. Therefore I was already accustomed to an academic level of teaching. I have already finished my courses and I noticed that there are some similarities between the Dutch laws and Spanish laws. Which is not very surprising giving the fact that both are influenced by European guidelines.
language preparation
My mother is a Colombian native so I grew up speaking Spanish myself. But even though I had a good basic in Spanish there are still some differences between the Spanish from South America and the Spanish from Spain. Especially in Granada they have a very strong accent. In the beginning I struggled to understand them properly. But after a while I got accustomed to the accent and it was not that difficult. However I strongly suggest that if you are thinking about an exchange in Granada to have a proper basic in Spanish, because the amount of English subjects are pretty slim.
finances
My finances were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loan from Duo - Scholarship from Erasmus - OV chip

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>The beginning was very stressful. Because I did not find the Granada website very helpful and therefore I made the mistake of thinking that, like most other faculties, the law faculty would also start their semester at the 15th of february. However one day before the orientation week started at my faculty I received an email from 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' stating that the orientation week would start the day after. That was roughly 3 weeks before I thought it would start. I had booked my flight at the 5th of february thinking that I would still have plenty of time to figure things out in Granada and would be on time for my orientation week. However that was not the case and the semester had already started when I arrived the 5th. I directly went to 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' to talk to them about this mistake and they told me not to worry. The courses I had chosen before going to Granada were not available for me because: they were from the first semester, the academic level was lower than Utrecht required, timetables did not add up. So therefore I was forced to choose different courses than I had anticipated.</p> <p>Having had missed the orientation week I lacked some important information such as that the law faculty has two buildings. So the first week I followed one course in the wrong building. I was sitting in the course 'contratacion publica' instead of 'contratacion privada'. The reason I found out was that I found it really strange that they were teaching about taxes when we were supposed to learn about contracts.</p> <p>The first month was really stressful because everytime I had to switch subjects and they approved some subjects that didn't even exist anymore. But after the first months I had my real courses and I had already spoken to all my teachers about being an Erasmusstudent and why I enrolled later than most students in the courses. After that I could finally start studying.</p> <p>Also many teachers showed up half an hour late to the classes. So I had to get used to that as well.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>The first weeks of studying in Granada I felt pretty lost. Even though I was confident in my level of Spanish I struggled with understanding my teachers. Some had a very thick accent and used some different words than I was used to. Also there is a difference between 'normal spanish' and 'legal Spanish' so that took me a while to figure out. One thing that really stood out to me was the fact that most teachers don't work with a manual as we are used to in Utrecht. In Utrecht before starting the course it's very clear for the students which book to</p>



purchase but in Granada it's not. The students learn mostly by going to the class, making notes and reading different manuals in the library for additional information. This is very weird for me because when I went up to the teachers and asked them about a manual they gave me a big list of manuals I could 'use if I wanted to'. But I learned that that was not really necessary, I just had to make good notes of everything the teachers were saying in order to get a good grade. Seeing how I had missed some classes and my notes weren't that good because my writing in Spanish isn't as quick as in Dutch I felt a bit stressed about that. But the Spanish students helped me and my friend (also a Dutch Erasmusstudent from University of Utrecht). Also the teachers helped us with our studies and made sure we understood the lessons.

The academic level of Granada and Utrecht is very different I believe. I believe that the courses in Utrecht are far more difficult than in Granada. The students in Utrecht have to read so much more and get more indepth questions. In Granada there was one course (which I failed) that I had to memorize the law. For me this is very strange as I am used to being able to have to law with my while making and exam in Utrecht. In this course they would ask me questions like: what is stated in art. 404? And I had to had memorized that. I really prefer different kinds of exams because memorizing to me is very boring.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I think that they are very friendly at the 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' and eventhough many things went wrong at the beginning they really calmed me down. They were very relaxed about everything so that helped me a lot.

transfer of credits

The only subject that I got less credits for is the subject: instituciones y derecho de la union europea. This was because it had some overlap with courses I had already followed in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I missed the orientation week

accommodation

A friend of the family had a contact with a woman who owned a residence. I directly contacted her and I got a room next to the faculty.

leisure & culture

Granada is a city with a lot of history and culture. It has the Alhambra which is a beautiful palace and worth the visit. If you want to get tickets make sure you do that on time because they get sold out very easily. You have the centre where the are shops and places to get tapas ect. and you have the albayzin and sacromonte which are beautiful neighborhoods. Granada was once an islamic city and there is still lots of influence. In calle Elvira there are lots of morrocan teahouses which are delicious and very beautiful.

As for fun there are lots of clubs where you can go out. My favorite is Mae West. It is the biggest I believe and it's always busy. The music they play is reggeaton. The Wednesdays is usually the Erasmus days and you can get in for free I recommend going there. I believe that two club also has Erasmus parties on Fridays. Often organisations such as best life and emycet organise events like 'tapas and karaoke' or 'mojitos and crepes'. For travelling best life and emycet also organise trips. You can travel cheap with these organisations and I recommend you to go. In the summer they organise a lot of beach trips. They also organise a trips to morocco, lisboa, ibiza, gibraltar, sevilla, cordoba, madrid, barcelona ect. So it's good to check those organisations out.

suggestions/tips

Make sure at the beginning of your stay you invest in hanging out with people and going to social events. The beginning is usually when most friendships starts :)



CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this university. The faculty is in the centre of the city, which is better because you can find an apartment in the centre and the centre is very safe and nice place to live. The faculty is beautiful and the teachers are friendly. It's definitely a student city and therefore there are lots of activities for the students. The teacher help the Erasmus students because they are very used to having Erasmusstudents.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The albayzin is absolutely beautiful and I have been there many times and never felt unsafe and you can visit it without a problem. However I have been told that at night it can be quite dangerous so don't walk there alone at night.

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process at the university of Granada is fairly easy. In April you get sent a link to an online application, together with a how-to in both English and Spanish. In this you just have to fill out your personal data and upload a copy of your ID or pasport. The document number on this ID will be used for all kinds of stuff, so make sure you upload the ID you will take with you. You can also reference your application by this number. Once you get there, there will be a plenary introduction in which you give a copy of your passport and they finalize your application. Up untill half of september, therefore, your application won't be final. All the other stuff has to be arranged after the application is already final (picking courses, buying books, applying for a student card, getting the password for the wifi). Don't expect this to be arranged before october.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
At Utrecht, we got a lot of information about the application process. It was a little complicated, but the international office was very approachable and helpful. Not only did we recieve support in the actual application process, but also advice as to what other things we should do before going abroad and what might happen when you actually live abroad.
academic preparation
The level of the courses in the University of Granada is very basic. Contentwise, you will probably get along just fine. As the culture in Granada is one of not studying more then you have to, you will definitely not fall behind if you put in a decent amount of work. You could go to the website (of the specific faculty) and read up on what courses are available, as it helps to pick your courses as soon as possible, but this is to not miss out on practical information.
language preparation
I really recommend reaching B2 in Spanish before the semester starts. I myself had the reccomended B1. However, nobody speaks any English and the University of Granada is not very organized; you have to often chase the information you need. Me only having B1 Spanish made this a complicated and tiring process. Furthermore, right at the first week, friend groups of (international) students are formed. B2 is sufficient to comfortably socialize in Spanish. Your level of Spanish will go up rapidly during the school year, so don't worry about acedemic or legal Spanish, you will learn this as you go. The best way to do this to just do your readings, even if you read slow in the beginning. The more you do it, the easier it will get. If you postpone readings, your



reading skills will not develop quickly enough to keep up with the schoolwork (not because it is a lot, but because all your readings and assignments are in Spanish, and take a lot of time the first weeks). After the first few weeks, writing and debating in Spanish will not be a problem anymore, as long as you did your work the first few weeks.

As to reaching the B2 level: going up a level takes 3 weeks of an intensive course in Spain. Therefore if you take 6 weeks of Spanish in Spain, you should reach A2 before you arrive in Spain. If you take 3 weeks, you should reach B1 before you arrive in Spain. Learning Spanish in Spain is far more effective and efficient than in learning it in your own country, therefore don't spend all your time reaching B2 in the Netherlands.

finances

Granada is actually the cheapest city of Spain. To give you an idea: the rent of a room will be somewhere between 130 and 230, a beer (accompanied by free food, enough to constitute a meal) will be 2 euro's, a week's groceries are 40 euro's and a night of clubbing will cost you 15 euro's tops. With an income of 500 euro's each month, you will be able to live comfortably (rent, food, fun and occasional purchases such as a coat for the winter or a check up at the dentist). You could also make it with less if that is necessary.

Don't try to get a student job in Granada. The unemployment rate amongst youth is currently very high (in the 40%) and a lot of very experienced people with degrees that are fluent in Spanish are also looking for jobs.

There is no market for students that stay temporarily, are not fluent in Spanish and don't have a degree nor can work full-time.

I found applying for the Grant and "OV" vergoeding a complicated process, but it was worth it as it covered more than half of my finances. I recommend finding the forms, saving them and reading through them early, so you know what signatures/stamps you will have to collect.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the introduction week, there is a faculty specific information lecture. I study law, and we received a list of courses on paper. With this list, you have to make your own timetable. In my course choice, I went with the name of the courses, as there was no information on the content of the courses in some kind of course catalogue or study guide. On the website of the faculty, there was a list with the timetables for every working group. The Spanish students get placed in groups and follow set courses, and a set timetable. International students can cherry-pick courses and in which group (and thus at what time) they want to follow the courses, but it is a bit of a puzzle. You can switch courses for a month, so if you don't like a course, do not meet the requirements of a course, or cannot understand a professor, or the hours don't work for you, you can pick another course or another professor, or another timeslot. If you have figured out what courses in what groups you want to take part in, you have to go to the international office to register (something that was not clear to me). The international office is only open 10:00 -14:00, and there is a very long line in the first weeks, since everybody has to register.

The courses are all in Spanish, and every professor can decide for themselves what they want to teach in the course. Friends of mine had the same course, from a different professor, and there was almost no overlap in the material we had to read and the issues that were discussed in class. The types of courses you can choose are:

Cursos troncal: basic courses, such as history of law, theory of law, political economy. These are introductory courses and easy to follow. They are all 1st year courses

Cursos basicos: courses in Spanish law, criminal law, labour law, etcetera. They are numbered (e.g. Labour law II), so you will know when a course can not be taken without having some background in the subject. Many international students took these courses and managed to get a good grade. The difficulty of the course depends on whether you pick 1st year courses or 4th year courses.

Cursos optionales: extra courses, such as legal argumentation, international economical law. These courses are



all 3rd to 4th year courses and presuppose some knowledge in the area. (e.g. don't take international economical law without having a good basis in public international law)

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education activities is significantly lower than in the Netherlands. Students are simply required to be able to repeat what was said by the professor in the lectures. Students are generally not very engaged in the lecture, and because the groups are quite big (80 students) its not really possible to engage in group discussion. Some efforts have been made to make the lectures more interactive, in the form of assignments you have to hand in every week. However they usually amount to question to check if you have read the literature. Another difference with the Netherlands, is that students are expected to accept things like: "the definition of democracy is..." without any reflection or discussion.

Every course has a final exam, that usually counts for 70%, and a series of 'practicas', which are assignments. What the assignments are varies a lot, depending on the teacher. Some teachers ask you to read a book, summarize it and present it, other teachers put out a small assignment every week, or want you to go to a roundtable event, or read and reflect on cases.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before the lessons start, there is an introduction week. A lot of information on how the university works is provided the first day of the introduction week. The information is essential, so don't miss any of it. The international office of your faculty is your contact point; they are very helpful in helping you solve administrative problems. Use the introduction week to get in content with international students of your faculty, being in a group of international students will help you keep up to date with what you need to hand in/sign/copy/etc.

They also work with a mentor system, so you can actually make use of 1 on 1 advice and assistance (I did not use this opportunity, so I do not know to what extent this is helpful)

Information on your courses is a lot harder to obtain, because the content and even the procedures of your course depend on the teacher. Thus, things such as where to buy books, what form the test is in, what you need to prepare before the lecture and how the teacher will communicate with you, will be given during the course. At times, the syllabus clarifies these things, but more often not. Unfortunately, there is not a fixed bookstore or information channel (such as blackboard).

transfer of credits

As of now, the transfer of credits is not yet completed because of an administrative problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As alluded to in the sections above, there is an introduction week. It starts a week before the first day of class, and you will receive information about it some time before. The first day is on the science campus (fuenteneva) and consist of a welcom speech and some crucial information about how to finalize your application, as well as information on the services the university and related associations provide (more on those later). To speed up the process, bring a copy of your passport, so you won't have to wait in line. The speech as well as the information are translated to english. On another day (specified on the website) there is a faculty specific introduction. Here you will get information on your timetable, how to register for courses and all other information. This one is in Spanish, so make sure you are well rested and understand spanish quite well, because the information cannot be found online and is pretty important. Make notes if you need to. Here you will receive a form that you can use to register for courses at the international office (of your faculty).

The rest of the orientation programme consists of leisure activities. I would recommend to go, since this is where everyone gets to know each other and groups are formed. It also helps to know other students that



speak english and have to deal with the same confusing registration proces.

accommodation

Most people, including me, only started looking for accomodation once they arrived in Granada. The price of a student room in a shared apartment is between 120 and 260 euros, the price of an entire apartment between 200 and 300. My experience is that the best chance of finding an apartment is walking around the area you want to live, and take contact slips of advertisements of apartments that you can afford. Then call the number and make an appointment to see the room or apartment. If you like it, immediately arrange to sign the contract.

Spanish people are pretty informal, and tend to arrange everything last minute. A good time to look would be august or september. You also have to be very proactive, they assign the room to the first person that is on their doorstep with the first month of rent and the deposit in cash and a pen to sign the contract. If you wait to long or expect them to take the next step, the room might be rented to someone else (this happened frequently). So don't stop looking untill you actually have the keys and a contract.

Granada is not a big city, so it is not hard to find a place that is from walking distance both to your faculty and the center.

Since a deal is not a deal until you have handed over the rent and deposit, and they want to show you the apartment physically and see you before they assign you the room, it is no use using internet to find accomodation. When you are already in the city, it might speed up your search, but don't look from home.

A good place to find a room or apartment is on the facebook pages:

- * pisos granada
- * ESN granada
- * Alquiler granada

(Watch that you look for accomodation in Granada CITY, as the province is also called granada.)

Don't expect anyone that rents rooms to speak english. They might, but most of them don't. It is therefore necessary that your spanish is good enough to make appointments, ask questions and make deals over the phone.

leisure & culture

Granada is a great city, with amazing student live. 3 student organizations are active (Erasmus, ESN, Emycet). They all organize nights out, trips to the beach, sierra nevada and even citytrips for a very reasonable prize. In the introduction week they organize events to get to know other students. The student life, throughtout the year is very active. There are an average 4 parties a week, and every other weekend, there is a trip. Since the acedemic level of the courses are not very high, this is doable (although I did not go that often). The libraries are quite empty, until 2 weeks before final, when everyone suddenly starts pulling allnighters.

The nightlife in Granada is, as I said very active. Granada is full of bars, and it is the use that you get free food (tapas) with every drink. Outside of the touristic part of the center, you can choose which foods and it easily constitutes a dinner. A night out always starts with tapas, and the tapas subsitutes dinner (which would normally be around 10). after that, you go to a pub/café, until 3. Then the clubs open. Everyone usually stays out till 7. Because alcohol is not expensive, and the food is free, people go out often and drink much - social live revolves around tapas and clubbing to a large extent.

I really recommend joining all 3 organizations. I soon noticed that certain bars have certain offers on specific day. The thing is, on days there is a special offer in some bar, all students are in that specific bar. If you choose a place to go at random, you might enter into an empty bar. Therefore I really recommend staying in contact with students you meet in the introduction week, as to stay in the loop.

Aside from partying, Granada is know for how ancient it is, and for being a meeting point between marrocan and spanish culture. It is easily one of the prettiest cities of spain, so there is plenty to see (which is why i recommend going a bit earlier to play tourist). In the winter season (november - february) you can ski at the Sierra Nevada (one hour away). In the summer you can go to the beach (one hour away).

The university facilitates sports clubs, varying from footbal and rugby to salsa and zumba, to hiking trips in the



mountains. They also have a cultural center, where you can meet people and watch movies (for example). The weather in granada is 40 degrees (celcius) in the summer (june -september), 25 in fall and spring and 15 in the winter. It rarely rains. However, somehow, 15 feels chillier than it does here (in the Netherlands), so you will need to pack some winter clothes.

suggestions/tips

Most of these I have already mentioned, but here they are summed up:

- * Go to as many activities in the first weeks as you can, even if you are normally more introverted.
- * Make sure you are comfortable with speaking spanish both in social and professional settings before you go.
- * go before school starts to play tourist, get used to only speaking spanish and find a place to live. Also the activities start mid august.
- * If you want to better your spanish in Granada, and also have an accomodation and already meet people during the summer, follow an intensive course at escuela delengua (really really recommended). They also host excursions and lots of activities in the evening, so you don't have to get to know granada alone. I would really recommend this, to 'ease into' the daily life in granada (in a more foreigner friendly environment then a lecture full of spanish students that don't speak english and do not know what is and is not new for you).
- *Don't tire yourself trying to figure out 'the system' (books, timetables, etc). There usually is none.
- * stores open at 10:00, close at 21:00, and are closed between 14:00 and 16:00 in the winter, 13:00 and 17:00 in the summer (this really is very inconvenient)
- * All courses are offered in morning classes (09:00 -15:00) and evening classes (16:00-22:00). The slot 13:00 - 15:00 and the slot 20:00 -22:00 is for optional courses (optional for spanish student, for you of course, all courses are optional). Have your classes in the afternoon mostly (so between 13:00 and 20:00), this way you will be able to best adjust to the lifestile. And during exam week, that way you can go to the library in the morning, when there are still spots.
- * figure out where the studyspots are. It is very common to host dinner parties all the time, and have friends over constantly. I lived with locals and it was never quiet. Studying at home did not really work. Most faculties have their own library, but they are full around exam time. Also, during exam time extra buildings open up to study in, and all study places are open 24-7 (except 06:00-08:00 to clean); these buildings are also almost always full.
- * dinner time is around 22:00, lunch around 15:00. In exam time, this is a great time to find a study spot. After 16:00, but before 20:00, restaurants and take out places are closed.
- * You can get around by foot. There is also a pretty well functioning bus system and cabs are cheap. There is no need to buy a bike (unless you really like biking, which is great in the mountains around granada).
- * Go on some of the trips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would defenitely recommend going to Granada for the social and cultural experience. Granada is an amazing city and has a unique mix of spanish and moroccan culture. The city is beautiful and the food and weather are great. Granada has the most active student life and nightlife and you will definetly a great time. However, if you want to really invest in your education, I would not recommend Granada. The style of teaching is rather rigid: you are supposed to write down what the teacher says and memorize it. I personally did not get bored because following classes in Spanish itself was enough of a challenge already, but if you like to be challenged academically i would choose another university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Since almost noone speaks English, you will have a hard time arranging things upon arrival if your Spanish is not up to par - it would be best to already have B1 before arrival. To properly follow the courses, B1 is not enough,



B2 would be. Join the student associations, almost all social contact, parties, trips and events are arranged by them. The earlier you join them, the better. Arrive a few weeks before school starts to explore the city, get used to speaking Spanish all day and to find an accommodation. Buy a map and wander around the city, and try lots of random bars.